

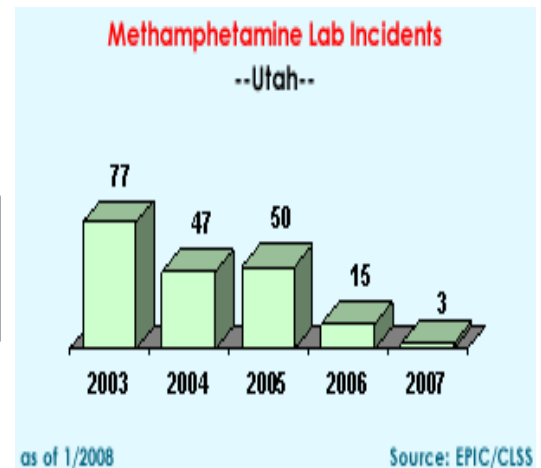
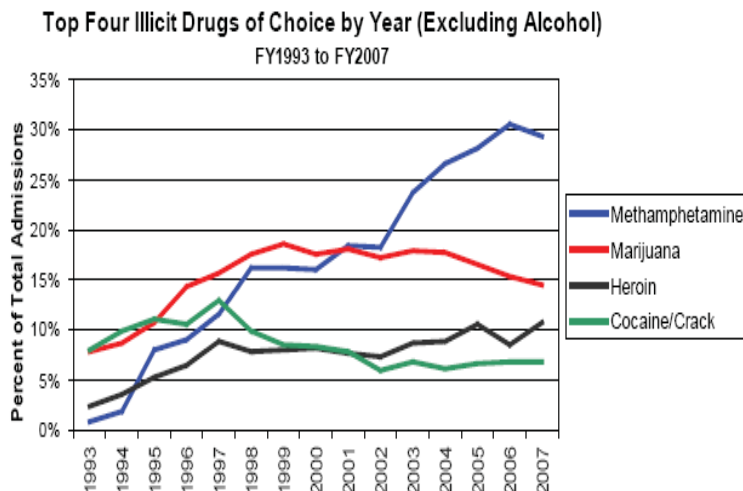
Fact Sheet

Methamphetamine Decontamination 2008

Overview:

1. What is meth?
 - Highly addictive, man made drug that stimulates the pleasure section of the brain
<http://health.utah.gov/meth/html/Whatismeth/index.html>
2. Why should I be concerned with meth contaminated properties?
 - Meth can be made from household items which are toxic, flammable, and otherwise hazardous in combination
 - Labs leave harmful, hazardous chemical residues on building structures
 - Every pound of meth produced in a lab leaves 5-6 pounds of toxic waste
 - Even just using meth can leave high levels of meth residues
3. What is the extent of the meth problem in Utah?
 - Meth labs have decreased since 2003, but meth use has continued to increase.
 - Since 2005, the data from 3 counties*, indicate roughly 305 properties have been remediate for meth contamination.
 - As more people become aware and test properties, the number of identified meth contaminated properties is likely to increase.

*Bear River, Salt Lake, and Utah



Health Concerns:

4. What are the health effects of meth exposure? What do we know about long term effects?
 - More research is needed on effects of low dose, long term exposure to methamphetamine
 - Some symptoms may be associated with exposure to meth include:

a. asthma	f. rapid heart rate
b. pulmonary fibrosis	g. irritability
c. upper respiratory complaints	h. insomnia
d. weight loss	i. increased body temperature.
e. increased wakefulness	
5. What are health effects prenatally, for infants and for small children?

<http://health.utah.gov/meth/html/Healthconcerns/AdultEffects.html>



- Exposure to meth during pregnancy may include increased maternal blood pressure, low birth weight, and prematurity. There has not been a significant association with major birth defects and methamphetamine use during pregnancy
- Children can be exposed in the environment through inhalation and absorption through skin
- Often, children are neglected, physical, mentally, emotionally, and/or sexually abused in homes where meth is being used or produced.

<http://health.utah.gov/meth/html/Healthconcerns/Children.html>

6. What level of meth in my home will cause health effects?

- Recent research coming out of California and Colorado confirm that no adverse health effects will result if a home is properly decontaminated to the level required by the State.

Meth in the home:

7. When should I test for meth?

- Recommended to test for meth before property transactions
- Visual inspection:
 - a. large amount of cold tablets
 - b. jars with clear liquid with white or red colored solid on the bottom
 - c. large amounts of batteries
 - d. propane tanks with fittings that have turned blue
 - e. strong smell of urine or other chemicals
 - f. yellow discoloration or staining on walls, floors, drains, sinks, showers, etc.
 - g. unusual burns marks, etc.

<http://health.utah.gov/meth/html/Decontamination/Decondetails.html>

8. What do I do if my property tests positive for meth?

- If home tests positive for meth, you should contact your local health department to discuss next steps in the process.
- If property was a lab, it will be placed on contaminated property list, and must follow the decontamination procedures outlined in the State Rule 392-600.

<http://health.utah.gov/meth/html/Decontamination/Decondetails.html>



9. What is the best way to collect a sample to detect meth?

- Local health departments only accept tests from certified decontamination specialists.
- A list of certified decontamination specialists can be found at <http://www.superfund.utah.gov/docs/ContractorList.pdf>

10. What is the difference in level of contamination between a lab and a home that only had meth use?

- If meth is produced in the home, then generally meth sample test results are very high. Additionally, meth labs introduce many hazardous chemicals into the environment.
- Homes with only meth use often test at lower, but still significant levels of meth present.
- Often it is difficult to distinguish between a lab and a use situation because meth is now being produced in ways where typical visual signs do not occur.
- <http://health.utah.gov/meth/html/Decontamination/AdditionalResources.html>